

Green-winged and Flock Pigeons in the Kimberley Division.
—Recently Father S. Sanz of the Benedictine Mission, Kalumburu, sent me a skin of the Green-winged Pigeon (*Chalcophaps indica*) which was shot 14 miles SSW of the Mission in November 1966. The bird was flying from tree to tree on the west side of the creek running into Tilwillie Pool on the King Edward River. Father Sanz, a keen observer of birds and resident at Kalumburu since 1939, had not previously seen the species.

As expected, this specimen (A 9737) belongs to the Northern Territory race, *longirostris*. The tail is blackish and, compared with *chrysochlora* of Eastern Australia, the purple wash over the neck, mantle and breast is well developed. Its wing measures 185 mm.

So far as I know, this is the first record of *Chalcophaps* in Western Australia. In view of the occurrence of *Pitta iris*, *Ptilinopus regina ewingi* and other jungle-dwellers on the north-west coast of the Kimberley, the presence of *Chalcophaps* in the Napier Broome Bay region is not really surprising.

Because of its mutilation by three bullets, Father Sanz was diffident about forwarding the *Chalcophaps* and only posted it as an afterthought when sending me a skin (now A 9736) of the Flock Pigeon (*Histriophaps histrionica*). The latter was a female (with minute eggs) that killed itself against the Mission garden fence on May 31, 1968. Though this was the first example Father Sanz had seen at Kalumburu, there had been local reports every year between April and September of odd birds and small flocks of up to ten. Subsequently (July 1968) Father Sanz saw a male in flight.

On the arid south-eastern plains of the Kimberley Division the Flock Pigeon may be seen in much larger numbers. For example, on 6 June, 1966, Mr. G. W. Kendrick observed a flock between the Duncan Highway and a dam 25 miles east of Flora Valley, which he estimated to comprise between 700 and 1,000 birds. His companion, Mr. A. M. Douglas, made an inspection of the dam, where hundreds of pigeons were coming in to drink. On the far side of the dam there was another flock of about the size reported by Mr Kendrick. Still further to the west were some dark patches on the ground, which at first Mr Douglas ignored. On approaching them the patches were found to consist of many thousands of Flock Pigeons. The birds were evidently thirsty, for soon after flushing they settled down a short distance to the west.

—G. M. STORR, Western Australian Museum.

Gull-billed and Marsh Terns nesting at Lake Nabberu.—D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell in their *Birds of Western Australia* (1967, 4th ed.) state that there are few nesting records of the Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) and Marsh Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) in Western Australia. It is noteworthy, therefore, that P. J. Fuller, G. Lodge and I found a nesting colony of about 300 Gull-billed Terns and about 20 Marsh Terns at Lake Nabberu on April 15, 1965.

The Gull-billed Terns were nesting on a bare islet of about 35 yards in diameter. Their nests were mostly made of samphire though some nests consisted merely of a scrape in the ground. There were 77 nests with 3 eggs, 52 nests with 2 eggs, 11 nests with one egg, and several empty nests. The usual "Fah-wuk" call was not heard but instead a quick repeated "yow" (as in owl) or "ah" like the calls of the Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaetheta*) and White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) but not so sharp and high pitched.

The nests of the Marsh Terns were heaps of samphire attached to samphire bushes growing in shallow water near the islet. There were 2 nests with 3 eggs, 3 nests with 2 eggs, one nest with one egg, and one nest with a chick.

In the vicinity of the tern colony we found 4 nests of the Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*), 15 nests of the Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*) and 5 nests of the Red-kneed Dotterel (*Charadrius cinctus*) with eggs. There was a flock of about 20 White-headed Stilts but none of these birds was nesting. Other aquatic birds seen in the area included a flock of about 100 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Erolia acuminata*), a Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and a number of Red-capped (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) and Black-fronted (*C. melanops*) Dotterels.

Lake Nabberu and other lakes in the area (Lakes King and Gregory) were filled with water to considerable depth when widespread rain was received in the East Gascoyne during March 11-12, 1965, with general falls of some 4 to 5 inches and scattered heavier falls of up to 9 inches in 24 hours. The rain was brought by tropical cyclone Joan which crossed the coast near Mardie on March 10, moved to some 100 miles west of Mundiwindi on March 12, and then veered south-west and eventually crossed the coast again just south of Shark Bay on March 14.

—JULIAN FORD, Lynwood.

A Partial Albino Scarlet Robin, *Petroica multicolor*—Early in 1968 Mr. William Lofthouse told me of a white robin on his hills property four miles north of Harvey on the Darling Scarp.

On April 25, 1968, I went to the area indicated and readily located the bird in an area of rough pasture adjacent to forest land and traversed by a gully with remnants of native vegetation. It perched on fences, logs, bushes and bare limbs of trees descending to the ground from time to time. Habitat and behaviour were normal for the species. Other robins, including a cock, were present.

The plumage of the bird was apparently entirely white except for the scarlet breast normal in cock birds and a fine line of black on the left wing, situated, I should say, immediately below the white bar of the characteristic plumage. The colour of the soft parts appeared normal.

I have received two other reliable reports of albinism in Scarlet Robins in the South-West, but this is the first example that I have seen for myself.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, 20 Herbert Road, Harvey.

Abnormally Plumaged Singing Honeyeater.—When I visited my neighbour, Mr. S. M. McNaughton, on December 19, 1967, he drew my attention to two Singing Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga virescens*) feeding in his garden. They had been hatched in a nest built in a small shrub beside the house. The two eggs from which they were hatched were similar, yet the two birds were totally different in colour. One was the usual colour of Singing Honeyeaters, while the other was a dull white, both above and below, with some yellow on the primaries and a tinge of yellow on the tail and on the side of the head. The eyes were brown. Its size, shape and manner of feeding were the same as the other bird and similar to other Singing Honeyeaters. The two birds fed together.

—A. L. MILHINCH, Northam.